



Maricopa County Animal Care & Control

TRAVELING WITH YOUR PETS

TRAVELING WITH YOUR PET

Traveling can be highly stressful, both for you and your pet. But with a little thoughtful preparation, you can ensure a safe and comfortable trip for everybody.

The first step to planning your journey is to think carefully about how the pet will be traveling. The mode of transport will determine the kind of pet carrier you use. If you are flying and your pet is small enough to travel in the cabin with you, you should use a soft-sided carrier that will fit under the seat in front of you and that has been approved by the airline for in-cabin use. If the pet is too large to accompany you in the cabin, she will have to travel in the cargo hold. For this you will need a USDA-approved shipping crate. If you are traveling by car, you may use any sort of carrier - wire mesh, hard plastic or soft-sided. Some of the soft-sided models have wheel safety straps that can accommodate car seatbelts.

Whatever kind of pet carrier you use, your pet should be able to stand, sit, lie down and turn around in it. Do not

attempt to cram him or her in too small a space. The carrier must have ample ventilation. This is assured by the mesh panels in soft-sided carriers.

Next, you should familiarize your pet with the carrier. To associate the carrier with positive experience, place a favorite toy or object in it and praise and reward your pet each time she ventures in. Do not leave the pet confined in the carrier.

For your pet's comfort, line the carrier with shredded paper, a towel or blanket. Absorbent liners come with the soft-sided bags and are required by airlines for in-cabin use.

If you are traveling by plane, you will need to make a reservation and purchase a ticket for your pet. Next, you should contact your vet to arrange a pre-flight check-up. All animals traveling by plane must have a record of inoculation and a health certificate no more than ten days old. If you are traveling outside the continental United States, you'll need to find out local regulations from an embassy or tourist

TRAVELING WITH YOUR PETS

board.

If your pet is flying in the cargo hold, write the words "LIVE ANIMAL" on the top and sides of the crate and attach two dishes to the inside for food and water. Tape a ziplock bag of dry food to the top of the crate. For easier access in case of emergency, do not lock the door on the crate, but do secure it with a sturdy clasp.

About four hours before you are due at the airport, or ready to embark on your car trip, give your pet food and water. It's a good idea to walk her right before you check in. The AC&C does not recommend tranquilization, except in cases where animals may harm themselves when extremely stressed. But, as in all matters concerning your pet's health, do consult your vet. Never let your pet out of the carrier while traveling. If you are traveling by car, however, you may need to walk your dog at a rest-stop. Never leave your pet alone in a parked car. Animals can develop heatstroke or hypothermia. If your pet has a tendency to get carsick, avoid feeding her just before or during a trip - even if it is a long drive. When you reach your destination, keep your pet in a calm, quiet area. Give her plenty of time to adjust to her new environment. Bon voyage! If you are traveling with an animal to a foreign country, you will be subject to the laws of your destination. You will need to contact the United States embassy of the country you are traveling to, and consult them regarding their regulations about bringing your animal.

AIR TRAVEL TIPS

To insure that your pet has a safe and comfortable air trip, the AC&C offers these tips.

YOUR PET'S HEALTH

Make an appointment at your pet's veterinarian for a check-up, and discuss your plans to take your pet on a trip.

Obtain a health certificate from your veterinarian dated no earlier than ten days before departure.

You must feed and offer water to your pet four hours before delivery to the airline.

Exercise him/her before putting the animal in the carrier.

THE FLIGHT

Make A reservation for you pet.

Book a direct flight it at all possible.

If you're traveling in hot weather or to a warm climate, book a night flight.

THE CARRIER

Purchase a USDA-approved shipping crate. It should be large enough for your pet to

TRAVELING WITH YOUR PETS

stand, sit and change position in comfortably. You can purchase such carriers from many pet supply stores and from airlines.

Write the words "LIVE ANIMAL" in letters no smaller than one inch high on the top of the crate and on at least one additional side. Use arrow indicators to prominently and boldly show the upright position of the carrier.

Write the name, address and telephone number of the destination point of your pet, whether you are traveling with him or someone else is picking him up. Secure this information to the TOP of the carrier. Your pets should also be wearing identification tags on a collar (elastic for cats).

Line the crate bottom with some type of bedding - shredded paper or towels - to absorb accidents.

Crate must have two dishes, one for food and one for water, attached to the inside of the crate and easily accessible to airline personnel. Freeze the water so that it will not splash out during loading but will melt by the time the pet is thirsty.

Get your pet accustomed to the crate prior to the day of departure.

Do NOT lock the door on the crate. Make sure it is securely closed, but not locked, so that airline personnel can open the crate in case of emergency. For trips longer than 12 hours, attach a plastic bag containing dry food on top of the carrier with feeding instructions for airline

personnel.

Tranquilization is not recommended.

Wishing your pet a safe and comfortable journey!

ON BOARD WITH YOUR PET

The AC&C recommends careful planning when your pet will be flying in an airplane's passenger cabin with you.

Make an appointment with your pet's veterinarian for a check-up prior to travel.

Make sure you have the necessary documentation; i.e. health certificates, international permits.

You must make a reservation for your pet! Most airlines limit the number of animals allowed per cabin.

For your pet's safety and the safety of the passengers, make sure the crate is secure under the seat in front of you.

Make sure the crate is big enough for your pet to be comfortable. Line the bottom of the crate with a towel to absorb any accidents.

Exercise the animal prior to putting him or her in the crate.

Let the person sitting next to you know that you have a pet. (They may be allergic and want to switch seats with someone else.)

For your pet's safety and the safety of the

TRAVELING WITH YOUR PETS

passengers, make sure the crate is secure under the seat in front of you.

DO NOT take the pet out of the carrier.
This is FAA law.

Bring food and water for the pet for long trips, and offer only after the airline food service is over.

Please respect fellow passengers.

Tranquilization is not recommended.

For a list of safety tips when your pet flies in the cargo hold, request our Air Travel Tips flyer.

CAR TRAVEL WITH YOUR PET

Take your companion animal for a veterinary check-up and obtain a health certificate and documentation of inoculations.

If your pet has never been in a car, take him on short trips to condition him for the journey. Remember, traveling can be very stressful for a pet; you should try to eliminate as much stress as you can.

Animals should be secure during the trip and not allowed to jump around or hang out of the window. For this reason, a crate or carrier is recommended:

A strong, wire mesh crate, not permitted for air travel, is preferable for car trips because it allows ample ventilation.

The crate must be large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down in.

Line the bottom with towels to absorb accidents. Attach bowls for food and water, to be given at intervals during the trip.

Accustom your pet to the crate prior to the journey.

Your pet should wear a flat-buckled ID collar with its name, your address and telephone number. For additional protection, consider tattooing him.

Try to avoid traveling in extreme weather conditions. If you must travel in hot weather, do it in the morning or evening.

Exercise and water should be given during rest stops. Do not allow your pet to run loose at rest areas. No matter how well trained an animal is, this is a new experience and an accident could happen.

Under no circumstances leave animal alone in a parked car. It takes only minutes for an animal to develop heatstroke in hot conditions or to freeze in cold.

If you are planning to stay in a hotel, make arrangements prior to starting your trip. Your pet should be a welcome guest.

When you arrive at your destination, keep your pet in a calm, quiet area and give him plenty of time to adjust to his new environment.